

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The committee amendment was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

NATIONAL SALES TAX WOULD BE A DISASTER

(Mr. NICKEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 212, a resolution I was proud to introduce earlier this week with Congressman SORENSEN and Congresswoman PETTERSEN.

My resolution is simple and opposes the 30 percent national sales tax plan proposed by several of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

A 30 percent sales tax would be a disaster for working families in my district who are already dealing with high prices of gas, exorbitant housing costs, and rising costs of living. It would hit seniors living on a fixed income especially hard.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve more than mere messaging and performative politics over the next 2 years, and this plan is just that.

I came to Congress to get things done, and I will work with anyone—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—to lower costs, simplify the Tax Code for the middle class, and tackle the most pressing kitchen table issues facing North Carolina families.

BALANCING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE RIGHT TO LIFE

(Ms. MACE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a very important issue in South Carolina's First Congressional District, the State of South Carolina, and the United States of America.

Last week, a member of the State legislature in South Carolina filed a piece of legislation that would execute women who have abortions. To see this debate go to the dark places, the dark edges where it has gone on both sides of the aisle, has been deeply disturbing to me as a woman, as a female legislator, as a mom, and as a victim of rape. I was raped as a teenager at the age of 16.

This debate ought to be a bipartisan debate where we balance the rights of women and we balance the right to life.

But we aren't having that conversation here in D.C., we aren't having that conversation at home, and we aren't having that conversation with fellow State lawmakers.

This week, I filed a bill that would give women greater access to contraceptives by cutting the red tape, reducing the application fees with the FDA,

and reducing that application process by half.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get on board with these issues today.

CONGRESS HAS THE SOLE AUTHORITY TO AUTHORIZE MILITARY INVOLVEMENTS

(Ms. HOYLE of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, the American people are fed up with the United States being involved in endless military conflicts around the world.

For far too long, Presidents of both parties have overstepped their constitutional authority by engaging in dubious legal gymnastics to continue involving U.S. troops in endless wars and conflicts without congressional authorization.

Article I of the Constitution is clear. Congress has the sole authority to authorize military involvements in overseas conflict. Once authorized by Congress, Article II of the Constitution allows the President to direct the military as Commander in Chief.

Congress must reassert its sole authority and not allow the executive branch to sidestep us.

As the largest and most diverse group in the Federal Government responsible for representing the American people and their interests, Congress should engage in debate before the executive branch can involve U.S. troops in wars overseas.

Tens of thousands of U.S. troops have been put in harm's way and trillions of taxpayer dollars have been spent on overseas military ventures around the world without proper debate or oversight from Congress.

Enough is enough. That is why I support the Syria War Powers Resolution that the House voted on earlier this week.

□ 1045

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BUDGET

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support President Biden's new 2024 budget proposal.

This budget is just what the country needs to move forward. It includes caps on insulin payments to \$35 for all Americans. It restores the enhanced child tax credit and provides up to \$3,600 per family per child. It contains \$4.5 billion for infrastructure projects. It has \$700 million for the Hudson River tunnel and Gateway Program, and it includes \$219 million to eliminate lead pipes from drinking water around the country.

This budget represents strong leadership, and it supports investments in

the future of American prosperity. I am proud to support President Biden's new budget.

Now we need Speaker MCCARTHY to show the same responsibility and leadership with his budget proposal.

GET AMERICANS WORKING AGAIN

(Mr. MOONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, going to work is more than just earning a paycheck. It is an important part of human dignity. Unfortunately, too many Americans are getting paid not to work.

According to a recent study, Americans can receive more money to stay home than they could putting in a hard day's work. According to the findings, a family of four in three States can receive more than \$100,000 in cash and benefits per year without working. A further 14 States allow a family of four to receive more than \$80,000 in cash and benefits without working.

In West Virginia, my home State, two unemployed parents with two minor children can make over \$73,000 in unemployment benefits and healthcare subsidies. Unfortunately, this is more than essential workers, like our firefighters or our truck drivers, make in a year.

Hardworking West Virginians helped build America. From the coal industry to the logging industry, our Nation needs Mountaineers to keep America moving forward.

While it is true that the CARES Act provided unemployment benefits for Americans in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, the pandemic is over. Even President Joe Biden said as much on "60 Minutes."

Now Congress needs to provide bipartisan solutions to get Americans working again.

SUPPORTING CAREER PATHWAYS

(Ms. BUDZINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my first bill as a Member of Congress, the LEAP Act.

This bipartisan piece of legislation aims to create new opportunities for American workers by supporting apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs. These training programs are a proven way to address the job skills gap and to get folks ready for careers in growing industries.

By providing tax credits to small businesses, this bill will both address the need for more qualified workers and cut educational costs, a win-win for employers and working people.

I thank former Congressman RODNEY DAVIS, who was the first to introduce this legislation back in 2013, and I thank Congressman MIKE CAREY for

partnering with me to build on this proposal by eliminating age limits and emphasizing pre-apprenticeship eligibility.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in supporting career pathways and a chance for everyone to succeed in our changing economy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF J. PAUL TAYLOR

(Mr. VASQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of a local educator, State legislator, and hometown hero, Mr. J. Paul Taylor. He was a visionary leader who made a lasting impact on our community and across the State.

When I think of public service and what it means to be a public servant, I think of J. Paul Taylor. I think of his kindness, passion, and dedication to our State. New Mexico is a better place because of him.

J. Paul Taylor served in the New Mexico House of Representatives for nearly 20 years. Many referred to him as the conscience of the legislature. He led with his heart, found common ground through his bipartisanship, and did everything with New Mexico in mind.

His service to New Mexico continued after he retired. A longtime educator, serving as a teacher and principal, he served on the New Mexico Education Association two times as president.

Last August, we celebrated his 102nd birthday with a visit to his home in Las Cruces.

He had a reputation as a passionate educator and advocated for the arts and culture, and was a leader in bilingual education in the State.

J. Paul Taylor was a true friend and mentor to many in New Mexico. From the bottom of my heart, I thank him for being a true public servant and dedicating his life to making a positive difference in our State. Let's all remember his love for public service and for advancing equitable education in New Mexico.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the significance of investing in education. Education is widely seen as a key determinant of social mobility within a person's lifetime.

As the father of two school-age children, Justin and Kyler, my job is to love them, share with them about the importance of faith, provide for them, and ensure they receive a quality education. That is why education is so personal to me.

Mr. Speaker, there are 246 schools in the First Congressional District of North Carolina. Of those, 48 percent, nearly half, are fully funded by title I; and schools within 13 of the 19 counties I represent, 100 percent rely upon title I funding.

Mr. Speaker, we must invest in our public education system to set our kids up for a lifetime of success, while laying the groundwork for generations of prosperity across eastern North Carolina and America.

As part of my Live the Dream Down East tour, I will continue visiting schools in every county of my district.

SANDUSKY VOTED BEST COASTAL SMALL TOWN

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the recently named Best Coastal Small Town in America, Sandusky, Ohio. Now, Sandusky is the home of Cedar Point, America's Roller Coast. We invite you to come. This town is the pride of Ohio's Ninth Congressional District, and this recognition is a true accomplishment.

Clubhouse No. 3 SportSocial, a local sports bar, erupted into cheers last Friday when dozens of residents at a watch party heard the results come in. Their enthusiasm is emblematic of small towns across America where people will gather as a community to celebrate achievements, both big and small. While this is a big accomplishment for a small Ohio town, it truly represents the best of America.

Sandusky derives its name from the Seneca Native American Tribe and translates into "cold water," but the residents of this town are some of the warmest, kindest people you will ever meet.

I encourage people from across America to visit Sandusky, come to enjoy our hospitality, and enjoy the astounding beauty of Lake Erie's freshwater south coast and the warmest coast in the entire freshwater Great Lakes.

HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE BEING SPENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we were given the President's budget, which outlines the President's so-called priorities.

Well, his priorities were pretty clear: Continue to expand government at the expense of the American people. Expand government, a government that is at odds with the freedom, well-being, and prosperity of the American people every single day.

The simple truth is, as my friends in the House Freedom Caucus and a large

number of my other colleagues in the Republican Conference have been articulating, we need to shrink Washington so that we can grow America.

We cannot sustain and grow out of the \$32 trillion of debt and the \$20 trillion of debt that the Congressional Budget Office just outlined that we are going to add over the next decade. We will not, as a country, survive through that if we do not get economic growth to the 3, 3½, and 4 percent levels that we saw under President Reagan, President Clinton, and in previous years. You are not going to get economic growth if you don't get the Federal Government off the backs of the American people and stop empowering them to target Americans, to undermine American freedoms.

Biden's budget would increase taxes and implement price controls to the tune of \$3 trillion. That is the President's plan.

What does the media do?

They run around and go: Oh, he is reducing the deficit. He is reducing the debt.

Yet, by his own measures, he would be increasing the debt another \$17 trillion over the next decade.

The American people look to this body and this town with utter amazement at how stupid we could possibly be. If you set out and tried to be more incompetent and more stupid than the people that have been running this town for as long as I can remember, I am not sure how you can do it.

Seriously. That would be a great exercise. Could anybody, if you put together 435 people here, 100 people on the other side, Presidents and bureaucrats, swapped out over the last, say, three decades, could it be any worse?

William F. Buckley said he would rather be governed by the first 435 people out of the phone book than the 435 people we send here. Is he wrong?

Seriously, it would be a great inquiry for us to consider.

We are \$32 trillion in debt. Our borders are wide open. We have got American citizens unable to carry out their livelihoods, men and women in uniform who are being denied promotions and the ability to do their job in the Defense Department. We have got kids shut out from their schools, forced into the corners wearing masks, mental health issues, and they are set back generations in terms of their academic capability.

That is the best we have got? That is the best we can do?

We reject that. We believe in America. We believe in Americans. We do not believe that investing in Washington, investing in the Federal bureaucracy is good for the American people. We believe the opposite.

The President wants to tax and regulate \$3 trillion to save increasing the debt \$3 trillion over the next decade, down to \$17 trillion. Whoo, boy, that will do it.

We propose an immediate savings of \$3 trillion right now by cutting back